

BASIC FOOD LABELING INFORMATION

Following are a variety of helpful website addresses and documents on the topic of food labeling which may be helpful to small or start-up businesses. Please note that the information presented here covers most food products except meat and poultry products.

General Labeling

The website address for WDATCP's 8-page publication covering the most basic information on food labeling called "Frequent Food Label Questions" can be found at: http://datcp.wi.gov/uploads/Food/pdf/food_label_questions.pdf

General Labeling, Plus Nutrition Labeling

WDATCP's publication (above) contains excerpts from a larger publication distributed by the FDA called "A Food Labeling Guide." It is 148 pages and includes more information on basic food labeling as well as information on Nutrition Facts, trans fat, and allergen labeling. The website address for the most up-to-date version of this FDA publication follows:

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/GuidanceDocumentsRegulatoryInformation/LabelingNutrition/ucm2006>

Small Business Exemptions from Nutrition Labeling

Small businesses may be able to qualify for small business exemptions from nutrition labeling. Specific food products will not be eligible for this exemption if nutrient content or health claims or other nutrition information appears on the label. For more information see:

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/GuidanceDocumentsRegulatoryInformation/LabelingNutrition/ucm053857.htm>

Trans Fat Labeling

Trans fat labeling requirements have been in effect since January 1, 2006. Businesses need to include trans fat in their nutrition labeling if they are either required to provide nutrition labels or are providing them on a voluntary basis. One exception to this is the special case of nutrition labels in the simplified format which often do not require trans fat labeling. The following link contains basic information about trans fat labeling:

<http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Food/GuidanceRegulation/UCM265446.pdf>

Another document with information on trans fat labeling is attached. It provides examples and also describes the special case of nutrition labels in the simplified format which often do not require trans fat labeling.



Allergen Labeling

New allergen labeling requirements also went into effect January 1, 2006. The following is a link to allergen labeling guidance from the FDA:

<http://www.fda.gov/food/guidanceregulation/guidancedocumentsregulatoryinformation/allergens/ucm106890.htm>

Spice Labeling

This document covers labeling of herbs and spices in the name of the food and in ingredient listings for food.



Metric Conversion Factors

This document provides handy conversion factors for net quantity statements.



Additional FDA and Other Federal Government Information

A federal government website address that provides access to the various sections of the Code of Federal Regulations that cover food labeling (Title 21 CFR) follows:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2009-title21-vol1/content-detail.html>

WDATCP Division of Food Safety Labeling Information

WDATCP's Division of Food Safety also provides general information on the WDATCP website which is periodically updated. (A word of caution: Please consider the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) webpages to be the most up-to-date and comprehensive information available.) The website address for WDATCP's Division of Food Safety labeling information follows: <http://datcp.wi.gov/Food/Labeling/index.aspx>